

Message Text

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SUBJECT: BACKGROUND INFORMATION OF FOREIGN ENERGY PROGRAMS

REF: STATE 301432

SUMMARY. KOREAN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ON ENERGY IS BEING STEPPED UP SUBSTANTIALLY IN 1976 WITH TOP PRIORITY ASSIGNED TO ASSESSING NEW ONSHORE OIL FIND. END SUMMARY.

1. ENERGY R&D PRIORITIES. (ITEM I-B, REFTEL). TOP IMMEDIATE KOREAN ENERGY R&D PRIORITY HAS BECOME ASSESSMENT OF ONSHORE SHOW OF OIL AT YONGIL BAY, ANNOUNCED JANUARY 15, KOREAN GOVERNMENT TEAM INVOLVING KOREAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (KIST) KOREA MINING DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION AND NATIONAL GEOLOGICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE PERFORMED YONGIL DRILLING. GOVERNMENT PLANS OIL EXPLORATION ACTIVITY IN OTHER ONSHORE AREAS DURING 1976 AND AT SAME TIME ATTACHES INCREASED IMPORTANCE TO RESUMPTION AND EXPANSION OF OFFSHORE OIL EXPLORATION BY PRIVATE CONCESSION HOLDERS.

A. LESSER KOREAN PRIORITIES IN SURVEY, EXPLORATION, AND DEVELOPMENT OF ENERGY RESOURCES, GROUPED IN DESCENDING ORDER, FOLLOW.

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A. COAL AND NUCLEAR FUEL.

B. HYDROELECTRIC (INCLUDING MAGNETOHYDRODYNAMIC POWER)
AND TIDAL POWER RESOURCES, AND

C. WIND POWER, SOLAR ENERGY, AND GEOTHERMAL ENERGY
RESOURCES.

B. KOREAN R&D PRIORITIES FOR ENERGY TECHNOLOGY, AS DISTIN-
GUISHED FROM RESOURCE EXPLORATION AND ASSESSMENT, FOLLOW IN
RANK ORDER.

I. REMOVAL CARBON MONOXIDE GAS FROM COAL BRIQUETTE FUMES

WHICH KILL SEVERAL HUNDRED PEOPLE EACH YEAR.

II. IMPROVEMENT OF THERMAL FACTOR OF LOW-QUALITY COAL.

III. CONSTRUCTION OF LOW-HEAD, MAGNETOHYDRODYNAMIC
DAMS, AND STANDARD KOREAN-MADE TURBINES AND GENERATORS.

IV. UTILIZATION OF SOLAR ENERGY AND WIND-POWERED GENERATORS.

V. UTILIZATION OF WASTE HEAT AND EXHAUST HEAT.

VI. IMPROVEMENT OF THERMAL SECTOR OF HEATING SYSTEMS.

VII. INTENSIVE HEAT SUPPLY SYSTEM (INDUSTRIAL COMPLEXES AND
LARGE-SCALE APARTMENT AREAS).

VIII. HEAT INSULATION AND FIRE-PROOF MATERIALS.

IX. IMPROVEMENT OF ENERGY FACTOR IN INDUSTRIAL PLANTS.

X. TIDAL POWER GENERATION AND OCEANOLOGICAL AND CIVIL
ENGINEERING.

2. BUDGET FOR ENERGY R&D ACTIVITIES. (ITEM II-B REFTEL).
CENTRAL GOVERNMENT BUDGET DOES NOT PROVIDE AGGREGATE FIGURES
OR SYSTEMATIC BREAKOUT FOR ENERGY R&D ACTIVITIES. IN PARTICULAR,
THERE ARE NO ESTIMATES OR BUDGETARY PROVISIONS FOR THE SIGNI-
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SIGNIFICANT EXPENDITURE ON ONSHORE PETROLEUM EXPLORATION BEGUN IN
1975. AVAILABLE FRAGMENTS OF THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT ENERGY
R&D EXPENDITURE PICTURE ARE AS FOLLOWS, IN MILLIONS OF DOLLARS
(KOREAN FY EQUALS CY; WON 484 TO DOLLAR RATE USED).

1975 1976

A. NUCLEAR ENERGY RESEARCH (BUDGET,

MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND

TECHNOLOGY (MOST) 4.1 9.5

B. COAL (RECENT UNPUBLISHED

PLANNING PAPER; ADMINISTERING

AGENCY NOT DESIGNATED) 3.8 3.2

I. EXPLORATION (3.4) (2.8)

II. OTHER (0.4) (0.4)

C. OTHER ENERGY RESEARCH

(BUDGET FOR MOST) NEGL. 0.4

3. REMAINDER OF INFORMATION REQUESTED REFTEL WILL FOLLOW

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